Newspaper Item.

Prof. Herrick Collects Data on Early Birds

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A Bird Calendar Is Compiled by Biology Head

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Every spring Prof. F.H.Herrick, head of the Biology Department, has compiled a bird calendar of the bird reports which are turned in by members of the faculty, students, and many people not connected with the University who are interested in birds. The record of the date of arrival of the different birds gives interesting data on the influence of weather on bird migration.

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The past winter has been hard on our wild birds since for a period of about eight weeks (January 8 - March 4) much of their natural food, consisting of dried berries and seeds, has been covered with snow or ice. Few resident or visiting species (from the north) have been recorded. Nevertheless, the movements of migrants from the south have not been seriously checked, for the reasons that winter by the lake began to break on the first of March, and the natural food supplies, left by the retreating snow, became almost immediately available; in about ten days the ground was bare. Birds, with the highest blood-temperature known, do not suffer from cold, provided they can obtain food.

Besides the season just passed, Cleveland has experienced three rigorous winters during the last decade, namely -1909-1910 (noted for its protracted cold and deep snows from mid December to March 1); 1917-1918, characterized by deep snows and low temperatures – minus 12-15 on the Heights – from December to February 10, when mild weather prevailed.

In the following table are given the first reports of individual robins and song sparrows, noted in this neighborhood and believed to be migrants from the south, during the severe seasons referred to above.

Season	Robin	Bluebird	Song Sparrow
1909-10	March 3	March 4	March 1
1911-12	March 18	March 16	March 16
1917-18	March 1	Feb. 27	March 2
1919-20	March 3	March 5	March 10

These records show great similarity excepting those for 1911-12, when a large body of snow covered the ground up to the middle of March, and rendered unavailable the natural stores of food. Such data illustrate the fact that migrants from the south follow the Spring-line, moving with it as it advances northward; when the advance of this line is checked, as by a large body of snow, the migratory stream is automatically retarded from lack of available food.

The season of 1918-19, the mildest of which we have any record, naturally favored early migration, the first records for the robin being February 14 and 22, for the bluebird, Mar. 2, and for the song sparrow, Feb. 14.

The extremely mild weather which began on March 21, and has continued up to the present time - March 25 – with outdoor temperatures of 70 degrees, may tend to hasten the northward movement by increasing the supply of insect food.

1. Cardinal Grosbeak - Reported occasionally during the winter; February 22, singing, Stratford Rd., Cleveland Heights, Professor F.C.Waite; March 10, singing, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
2. American Crow; Occasional during winter, and common after mid-February.
3. Blue Jay; Reported rather infrequently during winter.
4. Downy Woodpecker; reported but rarely during the winter.
5. Hairy Woodpecker; reported as seen during the winter by Prof. Hulme.
6. White-bellied Nuthatch; but rarely seen during the winter.
7. Golden Crowned Kinglet; reported but rarely during the winter.
8. Chickadee; occasionally seen in winter.
9. Screech Owl; reported but rarely in winter.
10. Robin; February 20 (one), Heights High School, Francis Ginn, evidently this bird was not a migrant from the south; March 3, Lakewood, Martha Wallace; March 4, Noble Rd., Cleveland Heights, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy; March 4, Lamont Ave., J. Arthur McLane, Jr.; March 4, near Rosedale School, Miss Kohlicek; March 10, Bratenahl, Mr. Norweb; March 13, Bellflower Rd., Prof. Mountcastle; March 14, Forest Hill, Mr. Anderson; March 1 , Adelbert Rd., Mr. Myers; March 16, Noble Rd., and Adelbert College Campus.
11. Cedarbird; March 16, 115th St., Antoinette Farinacci and Kathleen Stewart; March 4, flock of 30, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
12. Bronzed Grackle; March 4 (two), Wade Park, James Ambrosia; March 7, Rocky River, Mr. Groser; March 13, Wade Park, Mr. Gerald Thayer; March 18, Adelbert College Campus, three males; March 23, Adelbert College Campus, flock of 200-300, Mr. Bean.
13. Bluebird; March 5, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy; March 17, Lakewood, male, singing, Dorothy Woodring; March 10 flock of 20, Brower's woods, South Newburgh, Henry Turner Bailey.
14. Song Sparrow; March 9, Doan Brook, Prof. Hulme; Marach 10 (two) Lake View Rd., Mrs. Spencer; March 11 (heard), Noble Rd., many singing at Noble Rd. by March 16.
15. Sparrow Hawk; March 10, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy; March 16, Wade Park (four), Henry Turner Bailey.
16. Cowbird; March 12 (one male), Noble Rd.
17. Killdeer Plover; March 16, Noble Road, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy; same day and place, three in flight and calling.
18. Meadow Lark; March 16, singing, Noble Rd; three days later, common.
19. Tufted Titmouse; March 19, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
20. Redwinged Blackbird; March 21, Noble Rd (six), Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
21. Red-shouldered Hawk; March 21, Brower's woods, South Newburgh, Henry Turner Bailey.
22. Phoebe; March 23, Noble Rd, Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
23. Flicker; March 23, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
24. Junco; March 23, Noble Rd., Mrs. Dr. Ruedy.
25. Fox Sparow; March 26, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
26. Chewink; March 26, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.

Francis H. Herrick.